

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain: Political and social pioneer of Mewat

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Abstract:

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was a prominent political and social leader of the Mewat region who contributed significantly to the development of the region in the 20th century. This paper analyses his life, works and impact on the socio-political structure of Mewat. Mewat, which is spread across parts of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, has been a backward region, where education, health and economic development were limited. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain stressed on the spread of education, social reform and political awareness for the upliftment of the Mewati community. His father Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan had participated in the freedom struggle against the British colonial rule and also played an important role in making the people of Mewat aware of their rights. This paper examines various aspects of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain's leadership such as land reforms, farmer rights, and efforts to strengthen regional identity. This study is based on historical documents, interviews and contemporary sources, which underline the contribution of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain in the history of Mewat. This abstract provides a comprehensive understanding of his life and work highlighting his role as a pioneer in shaping the social and political landscape of Mewat.

Introduction:

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was a prominent figure of the Mewat region who made significant contributions in the political and social fields during his time. Mewat, a historically and culturally rich region covering parts of Haryana Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, had long suffered from socio-economic backwardness and political neglect. In such a situation, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain played a pioneering role for the rights and development of the people of this region. His life and works were dedicated to the upliftment of the people of Mewat, strengthening their identity and establishing social justice.

The aim of this research paper is to analyze the life of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain, his political struggles and efforts for social reforms. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was not only an efficient political leader but also a social reformer who made tireless efforts to promote education, equality and self-reliance among the Meo community of Mewat. His leadership created awareness in the region and inspired people to raise their voice for their rights. This research will attempt to understand his contributions in a historical context, as well as examine the extent to which the impact of his work can be seen on present-day Mewat. Through this study we will try to understand how Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain contributed to politically and socially empowering Mewat in post-independence India. Drawing inspiration from his life, this research paper will also shed light on broader issues of regional leadership and community development.

When the British government took over Mewat in 1803, the princely states of Alwar and Bharatpur became their fiefdoms. British power and authority were recognized everywhere. At the same time, the people of Mewat also elected a leader from their community and he was Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan, the father of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. This practice continued even after India's independence. These leaders have been the guides of the Mewati community since then and have been working to uplift the backward area in every field for centuries. The first universally accepted leader of Mewat, the uncrowned king, was Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan from Dahingal Pal of the Meo community and after him was his son Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain.

The Mewat area, located in the picturesque valley of Aravali, from the capital Delhi to Gurgaon, Palwal, Nuh of Haryana and Alwar, Bharatpur of Rajasthan, is spread over a very large area, preserving its glorious history. The beauty of the villages located in the Aravali valley is worth seeing. The people living here are called Mewatis but the majority of the population here is Meo community who are Muslims by religion and this area is called Mewat because of their name. The Meo community has been very brave and courageous for centuries. Stories of their bravery are found in historical texts like Barani's *Tarikh-e-Firozshahi*, Babur's *Baburnama*, Abul Fazal's *Ain-e-Akbari* etc. Every village of this area Mewat has been a battlefield for foreign invaders at some time or the other.

Whether it was Sultan Balban or Sultan Mubarak Shah, the ruler of Delhi Sultanate, Mughal emperor Babur or the British who came from across the seven seas, the brave soldiers of Mewat have protected the country against them and sacrificed their lives and property. The redness of the blood of the brave warriors on this sacrificial land has always encouraged the warriors of Mewat to fight for their homeland. It seems that the land of Mewat has become salty with the blood of the brave warriors who have been shedding their blood like water for centuries to protect their villages and their country. Even today, many tourists, researchers etc. are drawn to see the scenic beauty, unique culture and the bravery

of Mewat. The people of Mewat are as brave as they are honest, straightforward, truthful and hospitable.

Birth and Education:

One of these brave villages of Mewat is Rehna, which was the village of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. Rehna is situated in the Aravali and adds to its beauty. Being in the mountains, this village has always been a refuge of martyrs and patriots for the invaders of Delhi. The brave warriors of Rehna have shed their blood like water against the invaders of Delhi Sultanate and the tyranny of the British. A promising child of was born on 7 September 1936 in Gurgaon of Punjab province (now Haryana) to Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan and Jummi Begum, natives of this brave village Rehna, who was named Tayyab Hussain.

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was one of the four sons of Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan. The other three were Chaudhary Mohammad Hussain, Chaudhary Hamid Hussain and Chaudhary Asgar Hussain. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain completed his primary education from Gurgaon. However, his academic life was interrupted due to the turmoil of 1947 and he moved to Santhawadi village for a few years. After returning to Nuh, he passed high school from Brayne Meo High School Nuh in 1953. Although Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was engaged to Jamila Begum, daughter of Chaudhry Rehmat Khan of Shadipur at the age of three and a half years, but after passing high school in Nuh, they got married in 1953. At that time Chaudhry Tayyab Hussain was only seventeen years old.

After passing high school from Nuh, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain completed his graduation from Gurgaon and Delhi. After that he joined Aligarh Muslim University for LLB and obtained a law degree from that university.¹ His later education was also full of tragedy due to the ill health of his father Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan. He had to take care of his father and also complete his education.

Political and Social Works:

At the beginning of his political career, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain became Sarpanch unopposed from his village Rehna in 1960. During these periods he was engaged many social and educational works. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain also became editor of an Urdu newspaper “Mewat Gazette” in 1960, published by his friend Hakim Ajmal Khan of Shikarawa in 1958. Through the newspaper Mewat Gazette, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain challenged those who indulged in party politics and factionalism in Mewat and exposed the selfishness of the opponents.²

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was also elected as a member of Nuh Panchayat Samiti in 1961. After this, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain also became a candidate for the Chairman of Nuh Panchayat Samiti because most of the members were with Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. But a minister of that time Rao Virendra was against him and was creating obstacles by postponing elections repeatedly and wanted the favour of the members for his own candidate. A similar situation was there in the District Congress Committee as well. For a long time Shri Roop Lal Mehta and Shri Vidya Ratan were District President and Secretary Congress in Gurgaon district, but Rao Virendra opposed them and cancelled their membership. Rao Virendra also cancelled the Congress Party membership of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain, Rao Abhay Singh and Rao Jai Narayan of Rewari. Rao Virendra had a lot of influence over the party workers because he was a very influential minister in Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon cabinet of Punjab. But when Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon came to know about Rao Saheb's undue interference, he asked Rao Virendra to resign from his post. But Rao Virendra was not ready and demanded the dismissal of Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon's government from the Governor. In such a situation, Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon dismissed Rao Virendra. Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, the old friend of late Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan, encouraged Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain to get ready for the new leadership in Mewat.³

This political success of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain at such a young age and the trust of 36 communities (*Biradari*) on him was proving that in future he will establish a big record in the field of politics. However, this politics was no less than a burden during the time of his father's illness, but there was no other way to save Mewat from opportunistic people. This was the time when Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan Sahib was ill and Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was very busy in his care. In this bad time, many opponents of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain emerged; even his own colleagues turned against him and were eager to take advantage of Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan Sahib's illness. In such a delicate situation, if Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain had any sympathizer, then these were the people of Mewat and Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon. During the illness of Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan, it was only Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain who could lead the people of Mewat and there was a need for it. To fill the void in Mewat politics, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain met Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon at Gurgaon Rest House. Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon said that it is not appropriate to field Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan in the election in his ill health and blessed Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain and asked him to prepare for the election from Ferozepur Jhirka and also talked about finding a candidate for Nuh constituency. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain invited one of his friends Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmad (Alwar Court lawyer) to contest the Punjab Assembly election from Nuh on the ticket of the Congress Party. When Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain introduced Chaudhary Khurshid to Pratap Singh Kairon, he handed over the responsibility of Chaudhary Khurshid to Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain and said that you see for yourself, I do not know him.⁴

In 1962, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain got Congress ticket for Punjab Assembly from Ferozepur and Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmad from Nuh. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain, through Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, invited Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to hold an election rally in Bhadas village of Mewat. In February 1962, both leaders Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain and Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmad won the election and Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain defeated the big leader Abdul Ghani Dar by a huge margin. The next month Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was also elected chairman of the Block Samiti. On 13 March 1962, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain became Deputy Minister of Public Works Department, and Health Department. He was the youngest person (25 years) to get a ministerial post in the Punjab Cabinet. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain came to Mewat on 25 March. Rao Mahabir Singh, Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmad and Hakim Ajmal Khan accompanied him. He was given a grand welcome in Nuh and Ferozepur Jhirka. There was a wave of happiness in the whole of Mewat and people were very excited about the progress of their young leader. During his tenure, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain invited Chief Minister Pratap Singh Kairon to visit Mewat and made him aware of the problems of the people in the region. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain added to the development work by building roads, opening schools and hospitals in Mewat.⁵

During the Indo-China war in October 1962, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain worked day and night for national unity, war efforts and defense fund collection. He also persuaded other leaders like Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim of Tijara, a minister in the Central Government, and Nawab Aminuddin Ahmed Khan of Loharu, to collect defense funds and as a result, a considerable amount was deposited in the government treasury.⁶

On 5 September 1965, the Indo-Pak war broke out. Choudhary Tayyab Hussain again organized various national rallies to prove national unity and solidarity which were attended by lakhs of people. He collected defense funds and extended full support to Welfare Minister Choudhary Chand Ram who was in charge of defense welfare efforts in Mewat and Gurgaon. On 20 September 1965, at a rally in Shah Chokha, Choudhary Tayyab Hussain presented a sum of forty thousand for the defense fund to Humayun Kabir, a Union Minister and one of the rally attendees. On 25 September, at a rally in Nuh, Choudhary Tayyab Hussain presented two lakh rupees to the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon for the defense fund. On 28 September 1965, at a rally in Gurgaon, Chief Minister Shri Ram Kishan praised Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain and the people of Mewat for their war efforts.⁷

In November 1965, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was made the Chairman of the Punjab Waqf Board. When Haryana was separated from Punjab on 1 November 1966, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain on the basis of the Punjab Reorganization Act and with the help of Central Waqf Minister Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad successfully prevented the division of Punjab Waqf Board into three parts- Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Chaudhary Tayyab

Hussain was now the Chairman of the Waqf Board, comprising three states Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. He got the Waqf property surveyed and got it gazette notification done and got it entered in the revenue records. He made proper use of the Waqf income and increased its resources. He started giving aid to schools from the Board and got thousands of mosques in Punjab and Haryana vacated and got them populated by appointing Imams and Muezzins in these mosques. During this period, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain, with the help of Town and Country Planning Minister Gyani Zail Singh Kairon, built a magnificent mosque in Sector 20, Chandigarh and also got land allotted for Karbala and Imambara in the same city.⁸

Apart from all this, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain's other busy schedule was care and nursing of his ailing father Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan because this household duty was also a big responsibility. The problem was that Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan did not follow the medicine and diet properly and neither could anyone dared to force him. Even during his illness and improper health, Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan did not stop visiting the areas of Mewat and meeting the people. As usual to the visit of the villages, Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan had gone to Ghotu Bilaspur village of Alwar, Rajasthan on 19 February 1970 and he died there in the same night. The death of Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Saheb was no less than an earthquake for the politics of Mewat and Haryana which shook everyone. In such a difficult situation, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain, being the eldest among his brothers, felt very helpless but did not lose courage. After the death of his father Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan on 19 February 1970, he was raised as the Chaudhary of 36 communities (*Biradarries*) of Mewat through a *Pagbandi* (turban tying) ceremony on 30 March 1970 on his father's *Chaliswaan* (fortieth day of the death). In that ceremony, besides Meos from all over the world belonging to 36 *Biradaris* including 12 Pals and 52 Gotras, Chaudharies of Jatiyat, Ahirwal and Gujrot were also present and they unanimously accepted Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain as the successor of Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan. Hundreds of Chaudharis of various Meo Pals and Gotras and Chaudharis of Jatiyat, Ahirwal and Gujrot paid homage to Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan and tied a turban on Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain and also presented him with a gift of Rs. 2,32,000. Besides this, he was given 52 acres of land by Demrot Pal and an elephant by Pahat Pal. Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah came to Nuh especially to attend the ceremony. Even Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was invited to Pakistan where he was honoured in *Pagbandi* ceremonies at various places in the Meo residential areas. He was accompanied by his two sons Chaudhary Zakir Hussain and Chaudhary Fazal Hussain on his Pakistan visit.⁹

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain again started serving the community after the turban tying ceremony of 30 March 1970. In 1971, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain contested the election from Faridabad Lok Sabha constituency and defeated his rivals Nawab Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi and Har Prasad Nanda, editor of Hindi daily "*Veer Arjun*" and Urdu daily

“Pratap” and owner of Escorts. After that big victory, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain became the first Meo MP and the first Meo Central Minister. He was allotted 11 Mahadev Road bungalow for MP residence in Delhi, where people of Mewat used to gather. For the first time, the people of Mewat got a Meo minister, which was not only a matter of pride but he also created history. The door of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain’s kothi was always open for people coming from far off places in Delhi. In an interview, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain himself told that many students preparing for IAS used to stay at his place and they were given free food and lodging. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain especially used to take the name of two IAS officers Jannat Hussain and Noor Mohammad who were residents of Basti district of eastern Uttar Pradesh who used to stay at his bungalow and prepare for IAS. There were not one or two but many such students whose goal became successful in their goal because of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain.¹⁰

After the death of his father another responsibility of heading the All India Mewati Panchayat fell on Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. In 1971, he was elected as the President of the All India Mewati Panchayat. The office of the All India Mewati Panchayat was also in his bungalow 11 Mahadev Road, Delhi where the Mewati Panchayat used to meet and plans were made for the development of 36 communities in Mewat. In 1973, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was again elected as the chairman of Punjab Waqf Board and he held this post till 1978.¹¹

The iron man of his time, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain found himself helpless when the Congress government started a forced sterilization campaign for family planning in 1976. Almost all the villages of Mewat and especially villages like Nagina and Utawad were harassed by the police and other officials. Apart from this, the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992 was another occasion when Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain could not do anything for his community. Due to the biased policies of Chief Minister Chaudhary Bhajan Lal, the Meos suffered a lot in the communal riots in Ujina and Nuh of Mewat. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain tried his best to protest against the government but the matter was settled due to the intervention of Ghulam Nabi Azad.¹²

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was very courageous for the people of his community. One of his courageous acts was that he freed Chaudhary Kanwal Khan Alimev from police custody. Chaudhary Kanwal Khan Alimev had migrated to Pakistan in 1952. When he returned to meet his relatives in Mewat, a case was registered against him on false charges of spying. At that time Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was a minister in the Punjab government. After hearing this serious allegation, he started chasing the police van with his gunmen through Amritsar. He overtook the police van at Dhaula Kuan in Delhi and freed Chaudhary Kanwal Khan Alimev. This courage of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain cost him very dearly and to save him and silence the opposition, Chief Minister Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon issued a statement that “Chaudhary Kanwal Khan was an old Congress worker but

somehow he went to Pakistan. After some time he came back to meet his relatives and villagers and he also planned to meet me. It is a false allegation that he is a Pakistani spy.” Ultimately Chaudhary Kanwal Khan went to Pakistan with full honour and dignity.¹³

Inclusion of Meo community in OBC criteria was perhaps the most notable work of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. On the recommendations of Mandal Commission, Haryana government appointed Gurnam Singh Commission to confirm the OBC community in Haryana. At that time Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was a minister in Haryana. He organized a meeting of Justice Gurnam Singh and Meo representatives in Gurgaon. Mr. Abid Malik, Principal of YMD College; Mr. Syed Mohammad Javed, Vice-Principal of YMD College; Mr. Kifayatullah Siddiqui, Headmaster of Brayne Meo School; Hakim Ajmal Khan; and other intellectuals of Mewat submitted their application for inclusion of Meo community in OBC. After this, the Commission accepted their demand and Meo community was formally included in the OBC list. Due to the efforts of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain, Meo community of Rajasthan was also included in the OBC list.¹⁴

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was also a pioneer in religious matters. When the planned city of Chandigarh was built, there was no provision for a mosque in its sectors. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain put forward the idea of building a mosque before Chief Minister Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon. The Chief Minister allotted land from the green belt in Sector-20 and finally the mosque was built with the financial support of the Punjab Waqf Board. Like Chandigarh, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain also purchased a land for a big mosque in Gurgaon through Punjab Waqf Board near the new court in Gurgaon. But unfortunately the land was illegally occupied by some people of his own community. After a lot of struggle, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain succeeded in freeing the land from encroachers and started offering prayers on Juma (Friday) and Eid (Eidul Azha and Eidul Fitr). This valuable land is on National Highway-8 in the posh area of Gurgaon. The work of maintaining Gurgaon Jama Masjid was one of the other notable works of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. With the help of the administration, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain cleaned the area around the mosque and also freed it from encroachers. Due to his efforts, a lawn and cemented floor have been made in front of Jama Masjid Gurgaon. In Nuh city of Mewat Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain also built a huge mosque in the YMD College campus on the foundation laid for the mosque by his father Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan. Due to his efforts, an Imam in the mosque of YMD College campus Nuh was appointed by the Haryana Waqf Board.¹⁵

From the educational point of view also, the efforts of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain were very commendable. As the Chairman of Punjab Waqf Board, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain supported the running of many educational institutions and provided fellowships to the poor Muslim students. In 1971 Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain upgraded the Brayne Meo High School to a degree college as Yasin Meo Degree College for higher education. He remained the Chairman of the Governing Body of Yasin Meo Degree College till his death.

He always remained in touch with Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi to run the college in a better manner. He appointed the Principal and other teaching staff from these universities. He took the responsibility of running Brayne Meo High School successfully and upgraded it to a Higher Secondary School. He was always in the contact of the authorities and students of his alma mater Aligarh Muslim University. He was elected a member of the AMU Court, a member of the Executive Council and also the Secretary of the Old Boys Association of AMU Aligarh. His residence in Delhi was the study centre for Aligarh students to prepare for the Civil Services Examinations. He also arranged for their expenses from Punjab Waqf Board. Due to his efforts many students were able to clear the civil services examination.¹⁶

Like other historical figures, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain could not save himself from opposition and challenges. The Meo community remained united under the leadership of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain till the death of his father Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan. However, after the death of his father another faction started emerging under the leadership of Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmad. By the end of the seventh decade of the twentieth century the rivalry between the two groups became stronger and finally the Meos were divided into two rival groups. Even the villages of Mewat were divided in the name of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain and Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmad. Despite the division of the Meo community, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain succeeded from Faridabad parliamentary constituency in the 1980 general election. He defeated his Meo rival Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmad by a huge margin. The political rivalry of the two families still continued till his successors like Chaudhary Zakir Hussain and Chaudhary Aftab Ahmad.

The political rivalry between the families was very painful for Choudhary Tayyab Hussain as the region suffered a lot in terms of development. Despite having a very successful career he had to face many hardships in his lifetime due to factionalism in Mewat. He lost the parliamentary elections twice from Bharatpur and also lost one assembly election from Kaman. In 1998 when he was an MLA from Kaman constituency in Rajasthan he was seriously accused of anti-party activity. According to the *Indian Express* on 20 June 1998 and *The Tribune* on 5 August 1998, Ashok Sharma, chairman of the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) and Disciplinary Action Committee, issued a show cause notice to Choudhary Tayyab Hussain and his son Choudhary Zakir Hussain on 31 March 1998. This notice was given to them following a complaint by Choudhary Khurshid Ahmad, Congress MLA from Nuh, when he was the party candidate from Faridabad Lok Sabha constituency. The rivalry between the two allowed unknown or third-rung leaders of the BJP to win the Lok Sabha and Assembly seats.¹⁷

The show cause notice said that prima facie there appears to be a breach of discipline by Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain and his son Chaudhary Zakir Hussain and that they have violated the provisions of the Congress constitution. The disciplinary committee had asked

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain to show cause within 15 days as to why disciplinary action should not be taken against him for indiscipline. But the notice was eventually withdrawn. Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee spokesperson Suresh Gupta confirmed that the notice had been withdrawn but refused to elaborate. In fact, the soft stand towards prominent Meo leader Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was at the behest of the party's central leadership. The development was seen as a move by the Congress High Command to effect unity among Meo community leaders ahead of the assembly elections in BJP-ruled Rajasthan.¹⁸

The soft approach of the Congress High Command towards Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain is understandable because there were more than a dozen assembly seats in the state in Bharatpur and Alwar districts of Rajasthan where the Meo community was dominant. The community used to decide the election results in Kaman, Laxmangarh, Ramgarh, Tijara and Kherthal assembly constituencies, while the community also influenced the results in Alwar, Mandewar, Rajgarh, Kathumar and Deeg. In the last five assembly constituencies, the population of Meos was between 10,000 and 30,000. According to the Congress assessment, the infighting among the Meo leaders of Haryana could negatively impact its electoral prospects in Rajasthan.¹⁹

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was considered to have a strong hold in the Mewat region of Haryana and Rajasthan. Another fact also played an important role that Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was the uncrowned king of Mewat or the "Chaudhary" nominated by 36 *Biradary* of Mewat and unanimously elected by All India Mewati Panchayat. Actually, his father Chaudhary Mohammad Yasin Khan had formed the All India Meo Panchayat during the Alwar movement of 1932. This same body was renamed after his death, as the All India Mewati Panchayat by Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain in 1970 in order to broaden its membership from all the 36 *Biradary* in addition to the Meo community. This body claimed to be the representative of people of all communities and castes associated with the Mewat region. This reason also forced the party high command to adopt a soft approach towards him.²⁰

The second setback of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain's career was his deteriorating relationship with the Congress party in 2004 and his plans to join the Bharatiya Janata Party. According to *Milli Gazette*, 16-31 May 2004, he left the Congress party in April 2004 after he was denied a party ticket to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Bharatpur. Choudhary Tayyab Hussain's narrow loss from Kaman (a Meo dominated constituency) in Rajasthan in the recently held assembly elections apparently caused his disillusionment with the Congress. The political equation emerging from this move of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain just before the elections was seen as beneficial for the BJP.²¹

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain was facing opposition not only from within but also from outside. BJP and other communal organizations like Bajrang Dal were making very minor but disgusting allegations against him. On this issue, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain said in a statement that he was ready for any investigation. He himself has insisted on a Central Intelligence Bureau investigation. The Gehlot government in Rajasthan ordered a CID investigation into the allegations made on Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. However, the investigation cleared Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain of the allegations made by the BJP and other communal organizations like the Bajrang Dal.²²

From the 1930s to 2000, this family of the prominent Dahingal Meo clan has supported solutions to peasant problems rather than an Islamized alternative. During the Partition, it has affirmed Indian nationalism rather than versions of the two national theories. It has supported solutions to Meo problems within the Indian state and federal framework. In the summer of 2000, Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain visited Rajasthan for famine relief and appealed to Muslim madrassas to participate in it. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain also tried to include secular curriculum in madrassas. This was the only way to eliminate fanaticism among Muslims and provide them worldly education.²³

Chaudhry Tayyab Hussain was the first Indian leader to have the rare distinction of representing three different states- Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan as a member of the assembly and a cabinet minister. As a minister he served in various departments like Home, Development, Panchayat, Revenue, Finance Commission, PWD, Health, Agriculture, Rural Development and Wakf. He was one of the leading politicians of Haryana, a Meo leader and a senior Congress leader.²⁴

Here is the question before every Indian citizen that why is there always a stereotype over the integrity of Indian Muslims? Why do Indian Muslims have to constantly prove their nationalism? Is this what Indian democracy and its much-publicised secularism and equal citizenship is all about? Isn't everyone constantly pushing them into the pit and forcing them to internalise their image of so-called nationalism? These are serious challenges that need to be fixed and the hate and stereotype mindset needs to be changed for a secular and democratic India.

His ministerial posts and other assignments were as follows:²⁵

Member, Punjab Legislative Assembly 1962-66.

Member, Haryana Legislative Assembly 1966-67, 1984-87 and 1987-91.

Member, Parliament (Lok Sabha) 1971-77.

Member, Parliament (Lok Sabha) 1980-84.

Member, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly 1993-98 and 1998-03.

In Punjab- Deputy Minister, Public Works & Health, 1962.

In Haryana- Cabinet Minister for Home, Wakf, Fisheries, Development & Panchayat, Agriculture, Revenue, Finance, Planning, Industrial Finance & Credit Control.

In Rajasthan- Cabinet Minister for Agriculture, Ground Water, Rural Development, Medical & Health.

President, All India Mewati Panchayat 1970-2008.

President, Mewat Education Board Nuh.

President, Governing Body, Yaseen Meo Degree College Nuh and Yaseen Meo Senior Secondary School Nuh.

Member, A.I.C.C.

Member, State Election Committee, Rajasthan.

Member, Punjab State Congress Committee, 1964-66.

Vice-President, Haryana State Congress Committee.

Member, Executive Committee, Haryana State Congress (I).

Member, Election Committee, Haryana State Congress (I).

President, District Congress Committee (I) Gurgaon.

Convener, Minority Cell, Haryana State Congress.

Member, State Congress Committee, Rajasthan.

Member, State Election Committee, Rajasthan.

Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Rehna 1960-62, District Gurgaon.

Member, Panchayat Samiti Nuh 1961-62, District Gurgaon.

President, Nuh Co-operative Marketing cum Processing Society Ltd. Nuh Oil Mills 1963, District Gurgaon.

Hon. Secretary, Brain Meo High School Nuh 1963-68.

Chairman, Brain Mow High School Nuh 1968-87.

Member, Central Wakf Board 1966-68.

Chairman, Haryana Anti-Communalism Committee.

Member, All India Anti-Communalism Committee.

Vice-President, All India Muslim Education Society (Northern Region).

Member, Court, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

Elected Member of the Executive Council of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

Vice-President, India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi.

Member, Public Accounts Committee.

Member, Railway Convention Committee.

Member, Joint Select Committee on Code of Criminal Procedure.

Member, Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

Member, Committee on Tariff and Customs Bill.

Member, Parliamentary Delegation to Romania and Hungary.

Death :

Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain arrived at Gurgaon (Yasin Plaza) from Bharatpur, Rajasthan on 6th October 2008. After complaining of difficulty in breathing he was admitted to the hospital where he breathed his last at 5.30 am on Tuesday 7th October 2008. He was 72 years old and is survived by his wife, two sons Chaudhary Zakir Hussain and Chaudhary Fazal Hussain and two daughters Dr. Ayesha and Mrs. Zahida. More than two lakh Meos from different states gathered for his funeral at Yasin Meo Degree College Nuh who showed their faith in Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain who was the Chaudhary not only of the Meo community but of all the communities of Mewat.

Aligarh Muslim University or Aligarh community has expressed deep sorrow and condolences on the sad demise of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. Professor P. K. Abdul Aziz, Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University expressed his heartfelt condolences on the sad and sudden demise of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. In an Aligarh Muslim University press release, Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University Abdul Aziz said that Tayyab Hussain was an alumnus of the University whom the entire Aligarh fraternity is proud of. He said, "As a statesman with impeccable credibility, Hussain has earned immense respect in both political and public spheres. With his untimely demise, the country has lost an eminent political figure and Aligarh Muslim University has lost an honest and dedicated alumnus who tirelessly worked for the Aligarh Movement."²⁶

After Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain, his eldest son Chaudhary Zakir Hussain was made Chaudhry of 36 *Biradaris* and 12 Pals and 52 Gotras of Meo community through a *Paagbandi* (Turban Tying) ceremony on 4 November 2008. In that ceremony, people of 12 Pals and 52 Gotras of Meo and 36 *Biradaris* from all over India and Pakistan were present and they unanimously accepted Chaudhary Zakir Hussain as the successor of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. Hundreds of Chaudharis from various Pals and Gotras paid homage and also presented cash and gifts. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and BSP supremo Ms Mayawati presented Rs. 52 lakh on that occasion.

References:

1. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain used to narrate an incident related to Aligarh Muslim University sometimes when he was in a very good mood. There was a tradition in Aligarh Muslim University that the senior students used to take introduction of the junior students who used to take admission in the first year and used to introduce

them to the culture of Aligarh. Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain tells that when he was called for introduction on Saturday night, he was asked where he was from, Chaudhary sahab said Rahna. Then he was asked where the marriage took place, Chaudhary sahab said Shadipur. On hearing this, all the senior colleagues started laughing loudly and said that it is amazing that he is from Rahna and the *Shadi* (marriage) took place in Shadipur. (Information given by Syed Mohammad Javed, former Principal YMD College Nuh.)

2. Information given by Hakim Ajmal Khan of Shikarawa.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.* (Hakeem Ajmal Khan told that on the way to Chandigarh, the jeep broke down in Ambala, so he reached Chandigarh by truck.)
6. *Ibid.*
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*
9. This information has been collected through an interview with Chaudhary Zakir Hussain, President of the Governing Body of Yasin Meo Degree College Nuh and the President of the All India Mewati Panchayat.
10. This information was given by Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain himself in an interview before his death.
11. Information given by Chaudhary Asghar Hussain and Chaudhary Talha.
12. Information given by Hakim Ajmal Khan of Shikarawa.
13. This information has been collected through an interview with Chaudhary Zakir Hussain, President of the Governing Body of Yasin Meo Degree College Nuh and the President of the All India Mewati Panchayat.
14. Information provided by Syed Mohammad Javed, former Principal Yasn Meo Degree College Nuh.
15. Information provided by Chaudhary Asghar Hussain and Chaudhary Talha.
16. Information provided by Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain himself in his lifetime.
17. *Indian Express*, 20 June 1998; *The Tribune*, 5 August, 1998.
18. Information provided by Chaudhary Asghar Hussain and Chaudhary Talha.
19. *Ibid.*
20. This information has been collected through an interview with Chaudhary Zakir Hussain, President of the Governing Body of Yasin Meo Degree College Nuh and President of All India Mewati Panchayat.
21. *Milli Gazette*, 16-31 May, 2004.
22. *Ibid.*
23. *Ibid.*
24. “Kaun Banega Crorepati” was a serial telecast on television in which a question was asked that which politician was the minister in three states. There were four

options for its answer in which one name was Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain. This question was worth 25 lakhs. In this way we can say that being a minister in three states is a very big record of Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain which hardly anyone can break. (This information has been collected through an interview with Chaudhary Zakir Hussain, President of Governing Body of Yasin Meo Degree College Nuh and President of All India Mewati Panchayat.)

25. Information provided by Chaudhary Asghar Hussain and Chaudhary Talha.
26. *AMU Press Release*, AMU Aligarh, October 2008.